Capitol news

REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.

from Hollywood

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At Deadline

Andy Russell leaves his home in the Valley, just outside Hollywood, and goes east this month.

But he won't be going very far. Las Vegas, Nev., is the destination. He will open there, at Hotel El Rancho Vegas, on Dec. 8, sing two weeks as star of the floorshow, and be back home in time for Christmas. He and Mrs. Russell expect to start filming their series of "Mr. and Mrs." television films early in January.

Dick Haymes, fretful after waiting around Hollywood many months without a movie to make, or an airshow to air, trained out for a Nov. 18 opening at the Cleveland Palace Theater. He will also play the Albee in Cincinnati starting Dec. 2, and like Russell, will swing west to be home with his wife and kids for the coming holiday season. Dick's wife, Joanne Dru, just wound up an acting stint in "She Wore a Yellow Ribbon" at Monument Valley.

THE TRENIERS, identical twins who broke into the game with the late Jimmie Lunceford's band during the war, will be held over at the L. A. Melodee Club until Jan. 17. They answer to the names of Cliff and Claude, but only their wives and mother can tell 'em apart.

HERE'S THAT MAN . . . AGAIN

HE STIFF-ARMED the office door, did the little man with the flowery sportshirt, and charged over to the desk with his hands waving.

"Christmas cheer and all that stuff," he bellowed, "and have you dug Manone's book? It's departed, it's so gone it's back again. But Wingy left out my favorite Wingy story. We were driving over to Pasadena one afternoon and when we passed Forest Lawn—you know that's the largest cemetery in the world—he stopped the Chevvy and walked up to the big crematorium where the caretaker was standing and then he reared back and yelled, 'Hey, what's cooking?'

"And whaddya make of Artie Shaw these days? There's a guy who needs help. First he's gonna have a band again, then he's gonna produce a Broadway show, then he's gonna take over this Bob Keen California band, then he's writing a book. Well, the bulls arrested him the other day out on Wilshire Boulevard for speeding and turning corners from the wrong lane—simultaneously, y'understand—and I guess he has enough time now to decide just what he's gonna do for sure. He sure ain't going anywhere with those two raps facin' him in a town where traffic violations are second only to wartime espionage in severity.

"You there, Bud, pose as a news reporter, the mighty editor, the cat with the crystal ball. But do you know that Red Norvo will soon be at Billy Berg's and that Billie Holiday may be there with him? And have you informed your readers—all three of 'em—that Mildred Bailey and Charlie Ventura are likely to follow Herman next month at the new Hollywood Empire? Money, money, money. That's all it takes.

"Yeah Pops. I latched those lines about Cap's profits for the first nine months of the current annum, annumite add that $13,117,010 in sales just since last Jan. 1 is a sum much too rich for my tastes—back in '42 when the company was young I remember how Glenn Wallichs and Johnny Mercer used to dance around the newsstand at Sunset & Vine when they got orders for ten copies of Cow-Cow Boogie.

"Finances phooey. The only figure I'd like to get for Christmas is Kay Starr's, but she'll probably be back home in Memphis with li'l Kathy. Jeez, Bub, do you get the same reaction I get when some jock spins 'Please Love Me' or 'So Tired' when you're all alone—and wonderin'? Let's bop off this subject before we become ensnared or somethin', Kay'd just better watch out, that's all. I think she needs a Geiger meter.

"Did you know my brother Mannie got married last week? It was no trouble at all. Times is bad for musicians and a guy can grab state unemployment checks for only so long. So Mannie ran an ad in Down Beat:

Musician, aged 36, non-bopper, desires to meet girl less than 30 years of age who owns fiddle. Please send by airmail picture of fiddle.

"Now Mannie has an instrument again and all he needs is a job. And a happy New Year to you, too, Bud."

DORIS DREW recently won Frankie Laine's vocalist contest over 500 other contestants. From Texas, Doris now is doing a single in Las Vegas, emphasizing the blues. Saxophonist Henry Gruen, one of California's best, proudly claims her as his little sister. She'll soon open at the Oasis in L.A.

Studios On 'Arty' Kick As '48 Ends; Why No Musicals?

Are Hollywood's film factories closing their doors to music?

That's the question being bandied these days as production charts reveal that fewer musicals are now in production than at any other time since the depression.

Columbia has only one in the works, "Jolson Sings Again." Mighty Metro has none. Monogram has none. Paramount has one—the Bing Crosby "Top o' the Morning" film—but it is actually a drama with incidental music, a far cry from the lavish musicals of other years.

Even Independents Miss

RKO-Radio, now under fighting Howard Hughes' leadership, has no musicals now or in the near future. Republic has none. Big 20th-Fox is busy turning out six top-budget flickers, but not a single one is a musical. United Artists has none shooting, either.

Universal-International is only working on two films this month, and neither is a musical. Warners, like 20th-Fox, is jumping with six pictures under way. But only Danny Kaye's "Happy Times" has any music in it.

The independent studios offer no hope, apparently. Six pictures are shooting but there's nary a music sequence in any of them.

More Expensive, They Say

All of which leaves a total of 38 features now in production in the Hollywood studios, large and small. And only two or three musicals in the batch.

The coolness of Filmtown's bigwig producers, and studio chiefs, toward the song-and-dance celluloid is said to be the result of "discouraging" box-office returns on previous musicals this year and last. Also, it is pointed out, a musical is ordinarily more expensive to make. And Hollywood's belt is pulled tight these crisp fall days with its foreign markets curtailed and its domestic grosses bowing to sports, television and sundry other attractions.

Two Coming Up, However

MGM, checked by the Capitol News, promised it would have "In The Good Old Summertime" with Judy Garland in production soon and 20th-Fox, courtesy of Georgie Jessel, revealed that "Oh You Beautiful Doll" would roll on Dec. 6. Both will be high-blown, full-blast musicals in the grand tradition.

Metro also (see page 10) will shortly release two musicals made several seasons back.

But things ain't like they used to be. The dancing girls are car-hops now and many a musician is driving a grocery truck.

Savitt's Estate Set At $4500

Jan Savitt, the late orchestra leader, left an estate valued at $4500, it was disclosed last month. Savitt left no will and his widow, Mrs. Barbara Ann Savitt, has asked for letters of administration in a petition filed with the Superior Court. The Savitt residence, because it was held in joint tenancy with the widow, is not part of the estate to be settled.

Jocks, Not Bands, Sought For Films

During the war, Columbia's Screen Snapshots rang the bell with short films on news commentators and announcers, often heard but seldom seen. The lot will attempt it again with disc jockeys.

Titled "Spin That Platter," the subject was put in work last month by Ralph Staub, producer-director of the series. He'll shoot the best known platter pilots here, in San Francisco, New York, Chicago, Washington, Boston and New Orleans.

Keen Band Gigging Through Southern Cal.

Bob Keen's band, which Artie Shaw still may take over, in part, as a nucleus for the new Shaw orchestra, is working regularly in the Los Angeles area and is booked for some 20 nights during the month of December. Dates include a couple of weekends at the Avodon Ballroom in downtown Los Angeles.

Ingle Eyes New York

Red Ingle and his Natural Seven, with Karen Tedder, have just signed to open at the N. Y. Village Barn on Jan. 6 for six weeks. Red's zany crew now is at Zucca's in Culver City, Cal.

Film For Arnaz; Trip For Cugat

Two leaders of "Latin-American" musical combos will be in the national limelight this month.

Xavier Cugat, with nothing to do at MGM for a change, returns from a Texas tour with his band and, following the Christmas season at his Los Angeles home, will pack his trunks for a flying trip to South America in January. The entire Cugey troupe will make the trek, an undertaking expected to require about four weeks in all.

Rival baton-waver Desi Arnaz, on the contrary, just cancelled his coming tour —including a nice booking at the New York Strand—and instead will start work on Dec. 6 at Columbia Studios.

Arnaz, who has long harbored ambitions to become an actor, will be tossed a leading role in the forthcoming "Holiday In Havana" flicker. He also will be groomed as an up and coming "romantic" star by Columbia. The Arnaz orchestra, moreover, will also be seen in the film, according to present plans.

Mills Brothers Here

The singing Mills Brothers opened late last month at the Casbah Club, on the L. A. south side, and will hold forth through most of December. Dave Cavanaugh's band holds down the stand and plays for dancing.

CALL THEM "Talking People" if you will—everyone else does. Jello sponsors them, and their boss Meredith Willson and his music, over ABC every week from Hollywood. Left to right, Maxwell Smith, Norma Zimmer, who didn't talk enough and who has since checked out to become a mother; Willson of the Iowa Willsons, John Rarig, Betty Allen and Bob Hanlon. Betty Noyes replaced the Zimmer gal on the show.

Mercer, Dolan Wrapping Up Songs For New Legit Show

Johnny Mercer and Paramount's Robert Emmett Dolan are winding up work on a new musical score for a coming show which will open in Hollywood this winter preparatory to Broadway.

"Free and Easy" is the title of the production. Sig Herzig and Milt Lazarus have finished the story. Mercer's lyrics will be the first he has turned out for a legit presentation since he collaborated with Harold Arlen in 1945 for "St. Louis Woman."

According to Leighton R. Brill, who represents the Rodgers and Hammerstein interests on the west coast, and Paul P. Schreibman, who will produce "Free and Easy" with Brill, the Coronet Theater in Hollywood will be used, perhaps by mid-January.

Mercer also points out that "Free and Easy" will be an intimate presentation, with heavy emphasis on new, fresh talent. There will be singers, dancers and acts.

Haig Gets Gross 88

Walter Gross, solo pianist who migrated to California last year after building a rep in the New York radio studios, is the replacement for Erroll Garner at the Haig. It's a pop eatery on Wilshire Boulevard. He opened Nov. 17 and will continue to knuckle the Knabe nightly through the holiday season.

VINE St. gab

EVER HEAR of a guy by the name of Joe Dosh? Well, he once was an agent for the F.B.I. back east. Then he trekked to New York seeking a singing career, and wound up as a "standby" baritone on the Hit Parade program. But nothing much happened to Mr. Dosh, and everyone thought he was kidding when he answered to his name.

Came the fall of '48 and Mr. Dosh, with wife, hied to Hollywood. Things couldn't be any worse, they figured, and it wouldn't be as cold in the winter. Overnight he snared a contract—not as a singer—as an actor at Warner's. And now Mr. Dosh is out on the blue Pacific with Gary Cooper, Wayne Morris, Jack Holt and other famous WB stars playing a big part in "Task Force," which Jerry Wald is producing for 1949 release.

But you won't see Joe Dosh listed on the screen credits. Jack Warner gave him a new monicker. From here on out Mr. Dosh will cash fat paychecks bearing the name Brad Evans.

And still on the subject of pictures, the making of "Jolson Sings Again" is coming along at Columbia with Larry Parks again doing the Joley role. In this pic, however, the wife of Joley will be played by Barbara Hale. Sidney Buchman is the producer and Henry Levin the director. They figure that about 15 tunes will be heard in the finished film, although Jolson himself has already recorded more than 30—enough to be used for a third Joley flicker if and when.

Billie Holiday's December bookings for Los Angeles were canceled suddenly but she's still expected coastward in January or February. Everybody wants her.

Jane Russell will sing "My Sweetheart's the Man in the Moon" and "The Gilded Lily" in Republic's "Montana Belle" now shooting.

Dean Martin fractured his finger when his partner Jerry Lewis heaved a pumpkin at him in a floor show.

Once a television "holdout," Bing Crosby is now making plans. He no longers thinks TV is "two years away," as he was quoted last spring.

Herman Herd Stampedes West

Opening Dec. 7 At New Empire Run By Jockey

I'll be home for Christmas." That was Woody Herman's promise to his wife Charlotte and daughter Ingrid last spring when he headed east with his herd. And on Dec. 7 the little Milwaukee reedman will make his promise good when he opens, with his musicians and Mary Ann McCall, at the new Hollywood Empire on Vine near Sunset.

Booked For One Month

Woody, who has refused to return to the Palladium for personal reasons, for several months began to doubt if he would be able to get back to his home high atop a Hollywood mountain. But Gene Norman, youthful KFWB jockey and concert promoter, came to his aid last month when Norman set a deal to take over the night club (formerly known as Tom Breneman's) and serve as talent buyer. Norman promptly booked Herman's herd for a four-weeker, which will take the band through the Christmas holidays and into 1949.

"We want to make the club a decent, comfortable place for music fans," said Norman. "We even have plans of throwing it open on Saturday afternoons for the 'teen-agers. Woody's gang would broadcast over the network and we would serve cokes—no liquor. But this hasn't been set yet."

Duke Ellington To Follow?

Norman, who has no use for mickey bands, and whose music tastes include Dixieland and bop, declared he would like to follow Herman with Duke Ellington. The Herman band will draw about $5,000 weekly for its run.

"In New York they have the Roost," said Norman. "In Chicago it is the Panther Room of the Hotel Sherman. But here on the west coast it is nothing. We feel that the west coast will support the Hollywood Empire."

Norman at first wanted to call the Empire the Zoo. But Paul Kalmanovitz, who owns the club and who made the deal for the jock to book all the talent, said he once ran a room known as the Empire and that a beautiful big electric sign was still in storage. Thus the Norman venture underwent a quick name change.

HEADING FOR Hollywood and 85 pounds lighter than on his last visit, Georgous Chubby Jackson demonstrates his new look to fellow Woody Herman herdsters Don Lamond, drums, and Mary Ann McCall. Chubby lost so much weight last year when he found himself stranded in Scandinavia, with his short-lived band, that he simply continued his fasting after he rejoined Woody. Woody's band opens on Dec. 7 at the new Hollywood Empire.

—Photo by Gene Howard

Promises Courteous Waiters

Herman, telephoning from the east, said his band is now developing incredibly fast, and he pointed out that Bill Harris is back on trombone, Chubby Jackson (see photo) has returned on bass, Terry Gibbs plays the vibes and Mary Ann McCall, one of the few girl singers to attract any attention in recent years with a band, will also be ready for the Empire run.

Norman will charge a $1.20 door admission and promises that the waiters won't "hustle" patrons constantly, as they do in virtually every Los Angeles club. The spot will continue to house the early morning "Breakfast in Hollywood" broadcasts emseed by Jack McElroy. The old ladies who flock to the broadcasts will get there just about the time Woody and his musicians are leaving the bandstand.

Capitol Wax Enters Field In England, Mexico This Month

Capitol's long-awaited entry into Great Britain and Mexico will officially begin this month, right on the heels of the November announcement that Cap's records would be released by the mighty German Telefunken firm throughout the other European nations.

Glenn E. Wallichs, Nebraska-reared president of Capitol, announced that an agreement has been signed with E. R. Lewis of British Decca (not affiliated in any way with American Decca) which calls for the London company to handle distribution and sales of Capitol records throughout the British Isles. Both the British and American governments immediately approved the agreement, Wallichs added.

"Tremendous Significance"

"Capitol is extremely proud and pleased to enter into this association with England's Decca Records, Ltd.," Wallichs commented. "The advantages to both companies are of great proportions and it is unquestionably a move of tremendous significance."

In making the announcement, Wallichs pointed out that the new setup with British Decca differs from Capitol's recently announced agreements with Germany's Telefunken and Mexico's Articulos Domesticos and Pan American De Discos, both of which involve reciprocal transfer of recorded masters between the foreign companies and Capitol. Capitol will handle American manufacture and distribution of these companies' products and they in turn will make and sell Capitol platters in their respective countries. The contract with English Decca covers manufacture and distribution of Capitol biscuits throughout the British Isles and Africa, but will not involve reciprocal pressing of English waffles by Capitol in the United States.

Now They Can Hear Top Artists

The records to be pressed in England will carry the Capitol trademark identical with Capitol label used in this country.

According to the London weekly newspaper, "Melody Maker," there has been a consistent, unending demand for records by many Capitol artists virtually since Capitol's start in the summer of 1942.

Just A Day Dream . . . Hodges Fails To Show

Plans to have Johnny Hodges open at the L. A. Cricket Club in November were abandoned when Johnny, long a Duke Ellington alto sax stalwart, returned to the Duke's band in the east. The Cricket Club management had been assured by a west coast agent, who represented himself as Johnny's personal manager, that "The Rabbit" was anxious to play a coast nitery and the contract even called for Al Hibbler to come as vocalist.

Andy Kirk In L. A.

The ork of Andy Kirk pulled into the L. A. Club Congo in November, at $2,250 weekly, and will probably hold forth at the Central avenue bistro for several weeks. Cake Wichard is at the drums. Andy has been famous for 20 years with his "Clouds of Joy" music; as a youth he took lessons from Paul Whiteman's father, Wilberforce Whiteman, in Denver.

NELLIE LUTCHER, now at the New York Paramount Theater, heads for her home in Los Angeles in time for Christmas with her family. Then she'll play the Million Dollar Theater and west coast niteries until spring. At the Paramount this month she is sharing the stage with Stan Kenton's band.

New Band Set For Earl Hines

A new 13-piece orchestra is being readied for the vet Pittsburgh pianist, Earl Hines, who for the last six months has been pounding the keys as a member of Louis Armstrong's unit.

Hines, in Los Angeles for the recent Bull & Norman Dixieland carnival, revealed that the new unit would "break in" on a theater tour with the Armstrong combo. The musician who is hiring the men, writing the book and conducting rehearsals is Joe Garland, who several years ago was featured with Armstrong as a saxophonist. Garland will serve as the Fatha's musical director. Joe Glaser will continue as the Earl's personal manager.

225 Days In Jail For Maestro Grayson

Once a nationally popular bandleader, Hal Grayson last month was sentenced to 225 days in Los Angeles County jail when Judge Henry Draeger found Grayson guilty on five counts of drunkeness. Judge Draeger also ordered the pianist to stop drinking, and assigned him to serve his time on the Sheriff's Honor Farm, a sort of rehabilitation station. The judge sentenced Grayson to 90 days on all five counts, a total of 450 days, but then suspended half of the term.

New Books: Two Great, One N.S.G.

Humor In 'Wing' Entry By Manone

Writing like Wingy Manone talks must be one of the most difficult techniques facing a jazz scrivener, but Paul Vandervoort of Burbank has turned in a first-rate job of ghosting for the New Orleans buffoon in "Trumpet On The Wing."

Published by Doubleday of New York at $2.95, it's a book revolving around the bizarre and incredible career of the little one-armed man who has bounced around from corner to corner, in music, for more than 20 years.

One Musician Short!

On one job, as typical of the stories Wingston relates, Wingy hired a blind guitarist, a bass-player with a wooden leg and a drummer whose ear was bandaged. When Wingy rushed to the nitery's manager with the band's pay at the end of the week he complained bitterly that the envelope contained salaries for only six musicians. There were seven in Manone's band.

"Listen you," said the boss. "Between all you beat-up, crippled guys there's a whole man missing. You think I'm running a hospital?"

Wingy tells of his entire career, from his days as a child when he lost his right arm in a streetcar crash and had to learn cornet all over again. He takes it right up to 1948, through his decades of scuffling, his recent divorce, his work in network radio and Hollywood movies.

"We don't seem to have the fun that we used to have," Manone says in a late chapter. Like the time Bud Freeman came up to his room in a New York hotel. "He was tired and wanted to rest before going to work. So I told him to make himself at home. He asked me if I had anything to eat, in case he got hungry, but I didn't have nothin' in the icebox except some dog food for my dog . . . But when I got back I found a note from Bud saying that he hoped I didn't mind that he ate the meat loaf that was in the icebox.

"Man, that wasn't no meat loaf."

Jim Dorsey Tells One

Jimmy Dorsey's favorite story about Wingy concerns the time Wingy wrote to his folks advising them he was coming home to see them. His father was not enthusiastic.

"Just send the money that you would spend for transportation," he told his son. "We got your picture."

The Manone story is the story of jazz, just as previous books by Louis Armstrong, Benny Goodman and Ed Condon were jazz. Each new volume helps round out the picture. There'll be more in the years and decades to come. But "Trumpet On The Wing" will stand on its own merits. It's pretty hilarious. Anything connected with Wingy has to be.

—Dexter.

Finkelstein's Views On Jazz Said To Be Arbitrary, Academic

There are books about jazz and there are books about jazz, and frequently music mag editors are asked by high school and college students to assist in getting together material for term papers on the subject.

That's about how Sidney Finkelstein's new book shapes up. It reads like a term paper prepared by some eager young Sigma Nu who has just been bitten by the jazz bug and can think of nothing else. "Jazz: A People's Music" is the title and it is published by Citadel Press of New York at $3.00.

The author is pegged on the dust jacket as a book reviewer for a Brooklyn paper and a music "critic" for the N.Y. Herald Trib.

The book imparts no information that previous books on jazz failed to impart. It is, fully and completely, merely one man's opinions and ideas. Its listing of records is short, arbitrary and senseless. It reads, through 274 dreary pages, like a term paper.

At least Manone's tome has laughs.

—Dexter.

Wingy In Hollywood

Wingy Manone's Dixie combo opened on Hollywood Boulevard in the heart of Filmtown on Nov. 4, just as his "Trumpet On the Wing" book hit the bookstores coast to coast. Manone is at the Royal Room. He recently wound up a run in a New Orleans nitery.

Spaeth Offers Fat Tome On Tunes

"A History of Popular Music in America" is one of the fattest, heaviest and lengthiest books to appear, on the subject, in years.

But there are no wasted pages. For Sigmund Spaeth has crammed in more information—most all of it unavailable elsewhere—and more readable copy than many a larger book.

The man goes back to the early Colonial days to trace the development of American popular songs. Spaeth lists the composers, the titles, and in many cases the circumstances in which the tunes become popular. He digs in with authentic data, most of it dating back before there was a Tin Pan Alley or a Peatman sheet.

From "Alknomook," the death song of the Cherokee Indians in 1799—and even before—to Eden Ahbez and "Nature Boy" of '48 . . . there's an invaluable catalog of who sang what when.

The book, published by Random House of New York, sells for $5. But as noted previously, it's fat, heavy and lengthy. And the best reference work of its kind ever to be bound, stitched and trimmed.

—Dexter.

Tex Beneke Ork Coming To L. A.

Gordon (Tex) Beneke will play in Dallas at the annual Industrial Exposition from Dec. 4 through 12. Then he and his band will trek west for their third run at the Hollywood Palladium, which commences Dec. 21.

Beneke will follow the Harry James outfit on the Pally bandstand.

James, in returning to Hollywood last month, rolled his flashy Cadillac into a ball while jumping on one-nighters but was not injured.

KAY STARR, if you'll believe the nation's wax whirlers, has her biggest record out and spinning o the nation's turntables. It's a slow ballad, "S Tired," which for months has been No. 1 on Gre Britain's Hit Parade. Kay still airs over ABC eve Monday from Hollywood as star of her own pro gram, "Starring Kay Starr." And she's fast movin up to the top drawer as a favorite chanteuse.

STAN MYERS can only lead a band. But his boss, Groucho Marx, here demonstrates his triple-threat talents as a story-teller, a cheroot-smoker and amateur saxist simultaneously. Stan's music is heard with Marx's humor over ABC every Wednesday night.

GORDON MacRAE drops lightly into his engineer's pose in connection with his weekly emsee duties on the "Railroad Hour," beamed from the west coast, nationally, via ABC. The "Hour," however, actually runs a mere 45 minutes with Gordie introducing various guest singers and belting out a tune or three himself. This will be a happy, merry, festive Christmas for Gordie — and Kay Starr too — for it was in 1948 that they both swept into international popularity with their distinctive pipes.

The Diz Returning To Hollywood...If Club Is Still Open

If Bill Berg can keep his Hollywood club open—he's been fighting for months to keep his neck above water—he will present Dizzy Gillespie's band to compete with the new Hollywood Empire two blocks up the street starting Jan. 23 for six weeks.

Slim Gaillard held down the stand for Berg through part of November, fronting a 19-piece band which never once quite got off the ground. This month, Berg is hoping to present a "Jazz At the Philharmonic" aggregation with Coleman Hawkins. He said contracts were about to be signed as Cap News went to press.

Berg, who has operated various niteries throughout Los Angeles for more than a decade, took on a new partner last month. He is James Brewster. And like every other nitery on the west coast, Brewster joined with Berg in announcing that their club would be the first to present Billie Holiday when —and if—she decided to trek west. So far, Joe Glaser hasn't booked Lady Day definitely in California.

Berg's spot, at one time a smash profit-maker, has had its ups and downs all through 1948. And now with Gene Norman booking the talent for the new Hollywood Empire opening Dec. 7 with Woody Herman, Berg and Brewster will find competition more difficult than ever. It is likely that Norman will try to get Duke Ellington's band to compete with Gillespie's.

As for other L. A. bistros, the non-jazz spots are also bucking one another fiercely, with Kay Thompson and the Williams Brothers at the hincty Beverly-Wilshire's Florentine Room, Morton Downey at Ciro's and Spike Jones about to wind up a shortie at Slapsy Maxie's. Freddy Martin is back at the Cocoanut Grove, bucking Jan Garber at the rival Biltmore. And Red Nichols, Pete Daily, Wingy Manone and Jess Stacy are all doing well in smaller joints.

MEET THE JOCK!

HAL TUNIS appears twice every day on his own "Hal Tunis Show" via Newark's WVNJ, the city's newest radio station. Hal was 31 last month (his fans know that Nov. 14 is the day) and is married and the father of two sons. Also noted for his sportscasts, Tunis for years was heard over Newark's WAAT before hopping over, last September, to the younger—and more powerful—station. Tunis also likes to do interviews with celebs, and he's handled so many down through the years that he long ago lost track. He's heard at 620 on the dial.

THE WILLIAMS Sisters aren't really sisters, but now they answer to the names of Modi, 23; Betty, 24, and Tudi, 21. You can see them in Los Angeles night clubs. Bet and Tudi once worked with one of Horace Heidt's numerous singing groups.

MGM Soon To Release Two Big Filmusicals

Two of the most lavish musicals ever produced by MGM will be released soon. "The Kissing Bandit" has been set for national release Dec. 26. It co-stars Frank Sinatra and Kathryn Grayson and was made two years ago. "Words and Music" will start making the rounds of movie houses on Jan. 28 with June Allyson, Perry Como, Judy Garland, Mickey Rooney, Gene Kelly and others featured. Both pics are in Technicolor.

Matt Dennis Back At Buccaneer Beach Club

Matt Dennis is back at his old hangout, the Buccaneer at Manhattan Beach, Calif. Dennis does a single, playing the piano and singing his own tunes, including things like "The Night We Called It a Day," "Everything Happens to Me," "Let's Get Away From It All" and "Will You Still Be Mine?"

Music ... Gift of Christmas

What finer gift this Christmas than a superb Fidelitone Phonograph Needle . . to give countless hours of musical enjoyment to your friends.

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PRODUCED BY PERMO, Incorporated

Massive Dixie Fiesta Planned Again For '49

They blew and they stomped and they paraded for four hours and 33 minutes and when they finished, 57 of the world's finest jazzmen wrapped up their horns, went home and started making plans for an even bigger Dixieland Festival in 1949.

In many respects, west coast musicians declared, the recent Dixie carnival promoted by Frank Bull and Gene Norman at the Los Angeles Pan-Pacific Auditorium came off as the most exciting public session since the 1937 Joe Sullivan concert. A sell-out crowd of more than 8,100 (capacity seating) shouted approval as Louis Armstrong, Earl Hines, Jack Teagarden, Eddie Condon, Eddie Miller, Wild Bill Davison, Red Nichols, Pete Daily, Ted Vesely, Nappy Lamare, Kid Ory, Jess Stacy, Zutty Singleton, Wingy Manone, Sid Catlett, Barney Bigard, Matty Matlock, Lou McGarrity and scores more laid heavy on the two-beat and double-endings.

The Bowl In 1949?

And finally, at 1:03 a.m., 57 jazzmen bounced into "Panama" and marched off the massive stage among the audience with Zutty Singleton leading the way with a silver baton. They'll march right back next year, perhaps at the Hollywood Bowl where 20,000 can be seated, according to Bull and Norman.

Highlights? Eddie Miller's late-hour tenoring on "Yesterdays," which hushed the mob and brought the modest little Louisiana virtuoso an ovation; Satchmo' singing "Black and Blue" with the Big Gate noodling behind the gravel; Pete

(Hop Over to Page 14)

THE DIXIE BEAT predominated at huge Pan-Pacific Auditorium when Frank Bull and Gene Norman presented their first annual Dixie Festival before more than 8,000 paid attendance. Across the page is shown Eddie Miller's unit with Stan Wrightsman, Mannie Klein, Warren Smith, Nappy Lamare, Miller on tenor, Nick Fatool, Matty Matlock, Artie Shapiro and Doc Rando. Below, Velma Middleton bawls the blues with Jack Teagarden, Louis Armstrong, Barney Bigard and Sid Catlett all visible.

—Gene Howard Photos

PEGGY LEE
with DAVE BARBOUR and His Orchestra
'LOVE YOUR MAGIC SPELL IS EVERYWHERE'
(From the Motion Picture "The Trespasser")
Moody as the smash hit "Golden Earrings"
. . . great listening!
'SO DEAR TO MY HEART'
Lovely title song from Walt Disney picture

Blues Bawlers Sign New Cap Waxing Pacts

The acquiring of two new blues singers for the Capitol label was announced last month in Hollywood by Jim B. Conkling, chief of the firm's artists and repertoire department.

Blue Lu Barker is a veteran vocalist, coming from New Orleans originally and featured for many years in clubs and cabarets throughout the U. S. Her first disc, with a leaping orchestra behind her, is "A Little Bird" coupled with "What Did You Do To Me?"

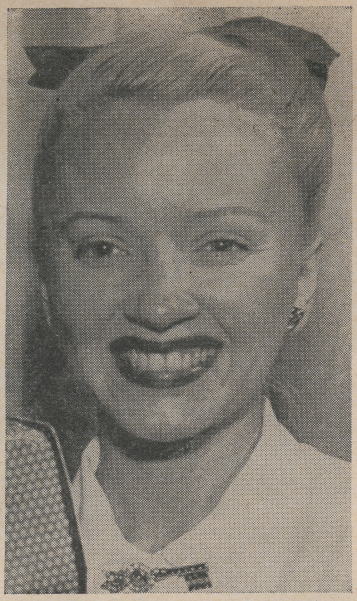
Serman (Scat Man) Crothers also has signed with Capitol. He has two earlier Cap discs on the market, including "Mabel The Lush," acquired form another company. Crothers, a fly drummer as well as a singer, has been a sensational draw at the L. A. Cricket Club and in San Francisco clubs the past few months.

Conkling also announced the signing of the Striders, colored vocal combo, who are making their debut on shellac this month with "Pleasing You" and "Somebody Stole My Rose Colored Glasses."

Several other artists in the blues division were being set as December neared, it also was revealed.

Nate Kazebier Blowing In Jess Stacy's Band

Nate Kazebier took his trumpet down to the St. Francis Room in downtown Los Angeles and joined Jess Stacy's new band, along with Ruell Lynch, clarinet; Red Cooper, drums, and Weedey Harper on trombone. Stacy had worked as a single at the spot for many months, and reportedly did such a bangup job that his bosses agreed to up his ante to include the four sidemen.



BLONDE VIRGINIA Maxey came up the pike as a band singer. Now she's dabbling in movies—westerns, no less—and caroling on the Abbott & Costello show occasionally. She started with the comics on their Nov. 25 broadcast.

Red Caps Quickly Return To L.A.

Completely unknown this time last year on the west coast, the Red Caps — combo led by Steve Gibson—will return to North Hollywood and Larry Potter's Supper Club on Dec. 17 for their third engagement at the same spot within an eight-month period.

The Caps, who not only sing a la Ink Spots, but who also double on various instruments, will perform eight weeks on their coming Potter's stint. And all because a single disc jockey, Don Otis of KLAC, has been consistently plugging the group since last December. Next Feb. 16, the Caps go up to San Fran for a three-weeker at the Beige Room.

singers' stuff

EILEEN WILSON will replace Beryl Davis, British singer, as Frank Sinatra's fem aide on the Saturday Hit Parade broadcasts in December.

Eileen first climbed up the ladder, shortly after she left the UCLA campus, with Will Osborne's band. Recently she has been featured with Less Brown, in whose band Ray Kellogg, her husband, also is a singer.

Miss Davis, in learning of the change on the program, apparently was unperturbed. For she up and married Peter Potter (KFWB jockey) in Riverside, Cal. Potter, one of the most popular spielers in west coast radio, gave his real name as William M. Moore in applying for the license to wed.

Comic singer Cass Daley and husband, Frank Kinsella, parented a son in Los Angeles.

Unhappy with "I Cover the Waterfront" as a personal themesong, Kay Starr joined with Lee Jarvis and Ed Pripps and wrote her own for her Monday "Starring Kay Starr" series over the ABC skein. The new theme is "Please Love Me." And it's getting a big play from the jukes and jocks as well.

Benay Vanuta's "Keep Up With the Kids" program will return to the network soon. She's now residing in Los Angeles.

MGM made a deal with theaters throughout the nation, during the run of the film "Words and Music," for Margaret Whiting's Cap album of Rodgers and Hart songs to be played over hundreds of p.a. systems during intermissions. The film is allegedly based on the R. & H. career.

Eddy Howard advises from Chicago that he and his band will return to Southern California next April. The singer just purchased a new house in Winnetka, suburb north of Chicago.

Artie Wayne set to make a short for Universal - International in mid-December. He will work clubs on the west coast this winter with the Williams Sisters.

FREDDY MARTIN is back at his old stand, the Hotel Ambassador's swank Cocoanut Grove, for the winter season. Evelyn Knight and Dave Rose were among the hundreds attending Freddy's opening on Nov. 9. Martin and his men (he has never used a girl singer) spent the summer months touring in the east.

Leaders Must Pay California Taxes

"Big name" leaders of dance bands in the state of California must start paying unemployment insurance taxes for their vocalists, sidemen and other employees next July, it was ordered by the California Employment Stabilization Commission in a dictum handed down on Nov. 4.

The order means that all bands, when playing the Golden Bear state, must file tax money with the state tax bigwigs in Sacramento. The new order sets back for one year the original date of July 1, 1948, on which the leaders were to begin paying tax.

A recent decision of the U. S. Supreme Court supported an earlier contention, by the California commission heads, that the guys who stand in front of the bands are the employers rather than the night clubs, ballrooms and hotels which hire the combos.

Ina Ray Hutton Preps New Band

Ina Ray Hutton, who as leader of an all-girl band back in 1935 was billed as the "Blonde Bombshell," organized another band in November, in Los Angeles. This time it is comprised strictly of males. She'll open on Dec. 31 at the Last Frontier in Las Vegas, for four weeks. Bookings are handled by Joe Glaser.

off the cuff

ANNOUNCEMENT IN the Los Angeles newspapers last month that Frank Sinatra will promote a $2,000,000 resort near the tiny California hamlet of Mecca, by the Salton Sea, was met with assorted reactions in Hollywood music circles.

The swoon boy said he believed Palm Springs to be "too crowded" and declared that his proposed resort would give the P. S. settlement hot competition. He plans it along the style of French Riviera with a golf course, tennis courts, swim pools, hotel and landing strip "as a starter." But musicians recall that Sinatra once announced plans to build and operate a mammoth ballroom near Hollywood, which never came about and sports followers are still awaiting his multi-million dollar sports center where Los Angelenos could see major fights, basketball and other competition. Sinatra, in short, regularly bobs up with big plans.

But not one of his proposed developments has ever "developed" into anything more than big talk.

The Rodgers-Hammerstein production of "Show Boat" will begin a two-week run on Christmas night at the L. A. Philharmonic Auditorium with Billy House, Sammy White and Clare Alden starred. The cast will be pretty much the same as that which revived the old Ferber story a year ago in New York.

Nellie Lutcher has asked her personal manager, Carlos Gastel, to book her in Walla Walla, Wash., sometime in February. At the time last December when she recorded "Wish I Was in Walla Walla" she had never even heard of the place; now it is one of her most-requested members. Tune, incidentally, was cleffed by Down Beat's veteran piano columnist, Sharon A. Pease, who also wrote "Snatch and Grab It" for Julia Lee.

Frankie Laine remains in California for several more weeks. He's been signed to do a gang of Chesterfield programs (NBC) with Peggy Lee.

You know which band did the best Palladium business in months? Lawrence Welk. Outdrew a half-dozen "bigger" names.

Paramount's changing of the title of Bing Crosby's "Needle In the Haystack" to "Top o' the Morning" also brings a singing role to little Ann Blyth, who is on loanout for the part from U-I Studios. And because she's chirping so elegantly with Crosby, U-I just announced they would put her in their film version of "Bloomer Girl" rolling early in '49. The starring role originally was intended for Deanna Durbin, whose star has dimmed in recent months.

Louis Armstrong's next Los Angeles appearance will be the week starting Feb. 8 at the Million Dollar Theater.

Evelyn Knight, after catching Freddy Martin's opening at the Grove here, is off to Minneapolis for a Dec. 3 opening at Radisson Hotel.

Dick Haymes transcribed National Safety Council jingles for airing over 800 U. S. stations.

Kay Kyser in New York for his ABC morning shows.

Bill Berg tried to get Julia Lee to headline the show at his Hollywood nitery but his $1,100 weekly lure wasn't enough. She remains in Kansas City, at Milton's with her Boy Friends.

who's where

WOODY HERMAN: Hollywood Empire opening Dec. 7.

HARRY JAMES: Palladium.

FREDDY MARTIN: Cocoanut Grove.

PETE DAILY: Eddie's Chi-Chi.

RED NICHOLS: Hangover.

WINGY MANONE: Royal Room.

JESS STACY: St. Francis Room.

WALTER GROSS: The Haig.

TRENIER TWINS: Melodee.

JAN GARBER: Hotel Biltmore.

ERNIE FELICE: The Oasis.

DAVE CAVANAUGH: Casbah.

SPIKE JONES: Slapsy Maxie's.

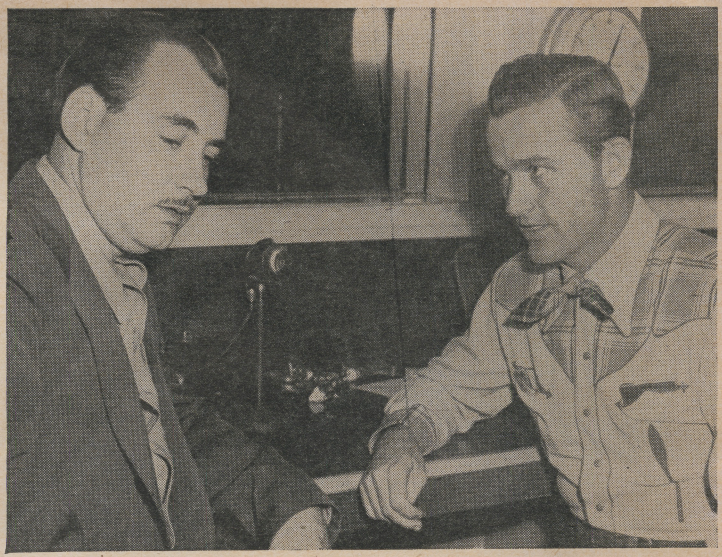
RED INGLE: Zucca's.

PHIL OHMAN: Ciro's.

TEX BENEKE: Palladium opening Dec. 21.

MILLS BROTHERS: Casbah.

KAY THOMPSON: Beverly-Wilshire.



JIMMY WAKELY is just about the hottest sagebrush singer around these days. His "One Has My Name" long ago passed the half-million mark, and he's got a new one coming out this month which Lee Gillette predicts will be even bigger. That's Gillette, left, above with Wakely. Gillette supervises all of Jimmy's record sessions—and helps pick the tunes.

—Photo By Charlie Mihn

Dixie Carnival . . .

(From Page 11)

Daily's mad and circus-flavored "Circus Slide" performance with Warren Smith and Rosey McHargue sharing solos: Matty Matlock giving the downbeat on Kid Ory's venerable "Muscat Ramble" classic as Ory himself, flanked by 56 other titans, read a special Matlock arrangement calling for nine trombones, eight clarinets, and down the line—easily the fattest, biggest jazz sound ever produced and captured on wax by AFRS for broadcast to men in uniform.

The gross was $19,000, and Promoters Bull and Norman had a nut so high they didn't expect to earn a dime even with every seat sold. But even they wound up with a few bucks for their efforts.

Everyone was happy about the whole thing.

Butch Stone, Dave Barry Sign To Wax For Capitol

Butch Stone and Dave Barry are the newest additions to the Capitol roster of artists in the pop field.

Stone, novelty singer and saxophonist with Les Brown and other bands for the past 10 years, will head his own combo and cut wax only for Capitol in the future. His first release ties "Etiquette Blues" with "My Feet's Too Big."

Barry has been one of America's foremost nitery comedians for years, especially noted for his inoffensive Jewish routines. His first entry is "Herschel In Hollywood."

Other talent in the pop field to be pacted by Capitol recently includes the team of Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis, Nick Lucas and Tommy Duncan, the latter a western singing star who for more than a decade sang the vocals with Bob Wills.

MEET THE JOCK!

"BROTHER BILL" Hickock spins 'em high, wide and handsome over Atlanta's WCON morning and afternoon. And it's nothing out of the ordinary for him to open his mike and sing along with the discs. He says he prefers to chant with tallowings by the Pied Pipers. Some say he sounds "something" like Johnny Mercer, but few of his zillion listeners are aware that Hickock actually was born in Boston. Until he came out of the service a few short seasons back, he had never been in radio. Since then his trail has hopped, skipped and jumped from Greenfield, Mass., to Norwich, Conn., back to Boston and now . . . Atlanta. "Brother Bill" has a large rep. too, as a picker of hit discs in advance.

'MY DARLING, MY DARLING'
(From the New York Musical "Where's Charley")
And The Starlighters with Orchestra

'GIRLS WERE MADE TO TAKE CARE OF BOYS'
(From the Warner Bros. Picture "One Sunday Afternoon")
with Orchestra

JO STAFFORD and GORDON MacRAE

christmas cheer throughout the year!

BOOGIE BEAT! *Hear the new Freddie Slack Boogie Album—sweet boogie, slow boogie—and boogie-woogie! Hurry down and hear it; you'll dance back.*

'Is I Gotta Practice, Ma?' • 'The Brown Danube'
'Beverly Boogie' • 'Chopstick Boogie'
'Boogie Minor' • 'Boogie in G'

Capitol Album CC-83 $3.00 plus tax

KENTON CONCERT *From Carnegie Hall to the Hollywood Bowl, the cheers are still ringing for Kenton's thrilling Progressive jazz concert—now yours in this much-praised album. Don't miss it!*

'Monotony' • 'Elegy for Alto' • 'Lament'
'Cuban Carnival' • 'This Is My Theme'
'Fugue For Rhythm Section'
'Lonely Woman' • 'Impressionism'

Capitol Album CD-79 $3.75 plus tax

PEGGY LEE *Glorious singing by versatile, satin-smooth Peggy. Everything from jump to blues. Every tune a smash hit! Hear this!*

'Why Don't You Do Right?'
'I Can't Give You Anything But Love'
'Them There Eyes' • 'Stormy Weather'
' 'Deed I Do' • 'Don't Smoke In Bed'

Capitol Album CC-72 $3.00 plus tax

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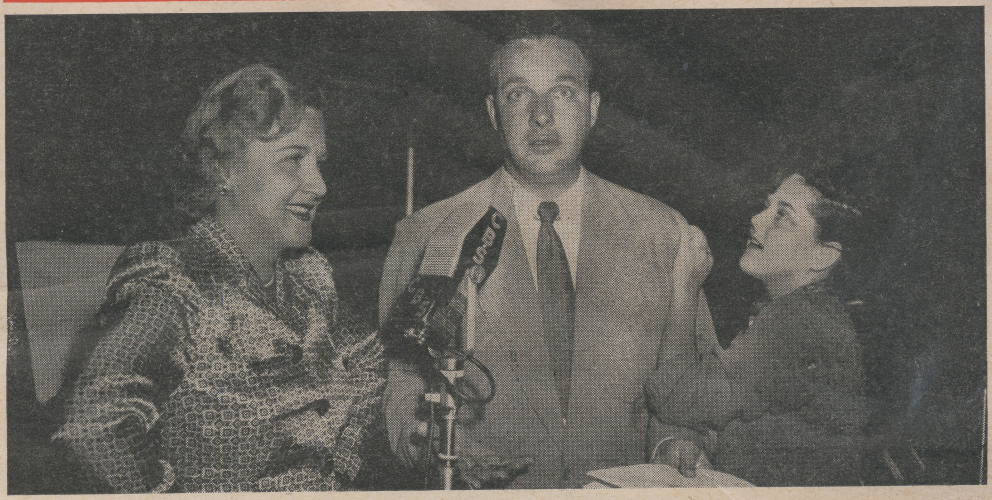
The Whitings Take Over



CLUB 15 principals include, among others, Maestro Bob Crosby and Margaret Whiting. And on this particular CBS airing young sis Barbara Whiting strolled over from 20th-Fox to do a guest shot, script and all. The CBS show with Jerry Gray's orchestra features gobs of vocal duets with Robert and Maggie and has been rated as the "fastest quarter-hour in radio." It also gives us a back cover for the yuletide season.